

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00320 102326Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /088 W
-----062345 111238Z /13

R 100600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 729
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 320

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PINR, DJ
SUBJ: DEATH OF DR. SALAH NOUR

1. ON 5 MARCH, DR. SALAH NOUR, AT ONE TIME CONSIDERED ONE OF DJIBOUTI'S MOST BRILLIANT YOUNG RADICALS, JUMPED FROM THE WINDOW OF HIS FIFTH FLOOR APARTMENT AND WAS KILLED. NOUR, WHO LEFT DJIBOUTI IN 1963 FOR MOGADISCIO, WAS ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS AND LATER PRESIDENT 1975 OF THE SOMALI COAST LIVERATION FRONT (FLCS). DURING HIS STAY IN SOMALIA, HE WAS OFFERED A SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LENINGRAD, ONE OF MANY FLCS YOUNG TURKS PICKED UP BY THE SOVIET UNION IN LEFT-LEANING SOMALIA IN THAT PERIOD. FOLLOWING A BREAK WITH THE MOGADISCIO GOVERNMENT IN 1975, HE RALLIED TO ADDIS ABABA FOR A TIME BEFORE RETURNING TO MOGADISCIO.

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2. ERRATIC AND AN ALCOHOLIC, HE NEVER ADAPTED TO LIFE IN INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI, DESPITE BEING OFFERED ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S CHOICEST POSTS AS DIRECTOR OF THE TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL. IN MANY WAYS, HIS DEATH BY HIS OWN HAND APPEARS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE CONFUSION WHICH HAS REIGNED AMONG THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG FLCS MEMBERS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO DJIBOUTI SINCE INDEPENDENCE. THE REALITIES OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE HARSHNESS OF LIFE IN A

STRUGGLING REPUBLIC SIMPLY DO NOT CORRESPOND TO THE DREAMS
WHICH THEY PROMISED THEMSELVES AND OTHERS IN THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE
STRUGGLE.
CLARKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PDEV, PINR, DJ, (NOUR, SALAH)
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